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Identical letters dated 4 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to attach herewith identical letters dated 4 October 2012, addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council regarding the series of terrorist attacks that hit the city of Aleppo yesterday, 3 October 2012, which resulted in the death and injury of scores of innocent civilians and caused enormous destruction in the public and private properties (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 4 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

On instructions from my Government I should like to draw your attention to the following information:

On the morning of Wednesday, 3 October 2012, the city of Aleppo was hit by a series of bloody terrorist suicide bombings at a time when civilians were commuting to work and students were on their way to school and university. Responsibility was claimed by the terrorist Nusrah Front, an affiliate of the Al-Qaida organization.

The first explosion took place at 0750 hours in Sa'dallah al-Jabiri Square. Two suicide bombers detonated two vans packed with a large quantity of explosives estimated at over 1,000 kg.

The second explosion took place at 0817 hours in front of the governorate building. A suicide bomber detonated a Sham-model car carrying more than 500 kg of explosives. At the same time, a mortar shell landed near City Hall.

A third explosion struck the city at 1035 hours, while engineers were attempting to defuse a device containing an estimated 1,000 kg of explosives that had been placed in a Sham-model car. The terrorist murderers detonated it remotely near the Amir Hotel, the Aleppo Chamber of Commerce and the Central Bank.

The initial casualty totals for these terrorist acts were 34 dead and 122 injured, including both civilians and military, in addition to three terrorists whose bodies were found among the victims. The terrorist explosions also caused extensive damage to public and private property, government buildings, hotels and homes in and around the targeted area, as well as destroying 250 public and private vehicles.

The Nusrah Front, an arm of the Al-Qaida organization that has been active on Syrian territory, has admitted responsibility. This cowardly terrorist act is one in a series of similar bombings perpetrated in several governorates by terrorist, criminal and mercenary gangs that are converging on Syria with financial support, weapons, training and shelter from countries within and outside the region. Those countries also provide political and media cover for them and their crimes, guaranteeing them impunity.

These savage actions against soldiers and civilians alike are clearly instances of terrorism, which the international community has agreed to condemn. Member States have defined specific measures against the perpetrators of such acts and those behind them. My country expects the international community, represented by the Security Council, to take a clear position against those acts and affirm its determination to bring the perpetrators and their backers to justice. However, some permanent members of the Council have prevented it from adopting a firm stance in similar cases.

Officials from certain States — particularly Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, whose support for terrorists in Syria is well known — boast openly of sheltering and training the gangs and offering them material, military and logistical backing. Such support is paradoxical, in that it violates those States' legal obligations under

international agreements to which they are committed as parties, as well as counter-terrorism resolutions adopted by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Some permanent members of the Security Council have proved even more insidious: having started wars around the world with the pretext of fighting terrorism, they are now providing political and logistical cover for terrorists in Syria and for the States behind them. That support can take a material and overt form. It can also consist of thwarting the Council's attempts to condemn terrorist acts in Syria, hold its backers accountable or call for them to be brought to justice.

The Syrian Arab Republic hopes that the Security Council will clearly and explicitly condemn the terrorist acts that struck Aleppo on Wednesday, 3 October 2012, and denounce those behind it. The credibility of the international community is at stake: it must show that it is determined to fight international terrorism irrespective of its motivation and timing or of who is behind it. In addressing international terrorism around the world, the United States of America, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and their allies have adopted a policy of double standards that is nothing short of political hypocrisy. By persisting in that approach, they would confirm yet again how closely certain regional and international parties are involved in the organized terrorism that targets Syria as an entity and people at present and in the future.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative